

From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Thur 3/26/2015 6:52:28 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Update 3, Region 2, Methyl Bromide Chemical Exposure, Cruz Bay, St. John, USVI.

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EOC Spot Report: Update 3, Region 2, Methyl Bromide Chemical Exposure, Cruz Bay, St. John, USVI.

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of: 14:50 EDT, March 26, 2015

Overview: On 03/20 at approximately 1640 EDT, R2 was notified of a potential chemical substance exposure that occurred in St. John, USVI.

A family of four was staying at Sirensa Condominium Resort, in Cruz Bay, St. John when they started showing neurological symptoms of chemical exposure. Conversations held by the USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) with Terminex (the Potentially Responsible Party [PRP]) confirmed that methyl bromide pesticide was applied on 3/18. On 3/20 their symptoms worsened and they required medical care at the St. Thomas Hospital where all four family members were hospitalized. On 03/24, the affected family members were transferred to stateside hospitals for further treatment.

The methyl bromide was applied in a lower condo unit and the fumes seemingly moved upwards into the unit above that was occupied by the affected family. Methyl bromide has been prohibited for residential use by EPA since 2005 although some exemptions for agricultural use are allowed until pre-existing supplies are exhausted.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: Virgin Island Government officials, ATSDR, DPNR, the local hospital, St. John Fire Department, St. John Police Department, and Terminex representatives are coordinating on this incident.

EPA Actions: A R2 OSC deployed to St. John on 03/21 to assist DPNR in the investigation of the incident and visited the condominium on 3/23. On 3/24, EPA conducted indoor and outdoor air sampling and monitoring of the unit where the family was staying and is currently awaiting

results on the samples. Another R2 OSC arrived on scene and both OSCs coordinated with DPNR, VIFD, VIPD and condo management to develop a sampling strategy. On 3/25, crews received sampling equipment and developed a plan for conducting air sampling, air monitoring, and collecting wipe samples. R2 OSCs also conducted interviews with Terminex personnel to gain information on any additional locations where methyl bromide may have been utilized.

Personnel on-site as of 3/25 include 2 R2 OSCs, 1 ERT, 4 CID, 2 RST contractors, and 2 SERAS contractors. Region 2 is obtaining technical assistance from HQ OCSP/Office of Pesticide Programs. R2 REOC remains the point of contact for all EPA's activities related to this incident.

Media Interest: Medium

<http://6abc.com/news/family-sickened-by-pesticide-at-resort-in-us-virgin-islands/571278/>

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/03/24/delaware-family-poisoned-caribbean/70379208/>

<http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/local/2015/03/24/del-family-poisoned-caribbean-stabilized/70397092/>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel_news/article-3011009/Teenage-boys-critical-condition-Delaware-family-poisoned-pesticide-Caribbean-holiday.html

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provided updates as needed.

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